

The First Word of the Gospel

The first word of the Gospel is "repent." Most places where Jesus and His disciples went, the first words out of their mouths were "repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The Gospel of Christ should not be equated with the false message, "turn or burn forever." Instead, it should be worded, "turn or face the righteous judgments of God," the purpose of which are to eventually bring everyone to repentance and entrance into the Kingdom. The Gospel of Christ is "good news" for everyone (Christ died for all), though some (actually all of us) will be required to experience a measure of God's "tough love" before entering the Kingdom. When I speak of entering the Kingdom, I speak a bit metaphorically (as did Jesus, I believe). We are not talking about a physical kingdom or a "place" that is separate from everywhere else. Entering the Kingdom should be equated with a process of submitting oneself to the rule of Christ in one's heart and deepening one's relationship with God. We are currently living in the Kingdom Age.